

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you work to complete the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, we encourage you to include funding to maintain Amtrak train service along the established, long-distance Southwest Chief passenger rail route.

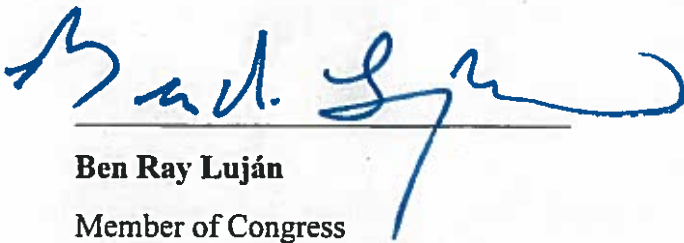
The Southwest Chief runs daily between Chicago and Los Angeles, connecting communities in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In many cases, this line serves as the only affordable alternative transportation option to highways for our citizens and it provides a critical link to public and private services in larger cities for rural residents. In addition, every summer, the Southwest Chief transports thousands of Boy Scouts from across the country to Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, N.M.

Unfortunately, Amtrak is considering suspending operation along this route and instead moving ahead with a plan to replace long-distance train service along the route with bus service. This potential suspension is extremely concerning to the people and communities served by the Southwest Chief and raises serious concerns that Amtrak will eliminate passenger rail service in other rural communities.

During Senate consideration of the THUD Appropriations bill, the Senate adopted a bipartisan amendment to provide \$50 million for maintenance and safety improvements along the Southwest Chief route. The amendment also compels Amtrak to fulfill its promise to provide matching funding for the successful TIGER IX discretionary grant supported by local communities up and down this route.

We believe that this amendment should be included in the final THUD Appropriations bill and look forward to working with you to address these concerns.

Sincerely,



Ben Ray Luján

Member of Congress



Scott Tipton

Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham

Member of Congress



Steve Pearce

Member of Congress



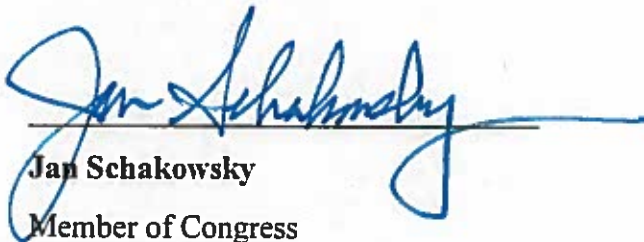
Tom O'Halleran

Member of Congress



Ron Estes

Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress



Paul Cook

Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack

Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins, CPA

Member of Congress

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Emanuel Cleaver". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Emanuel Cleaver

Member of Congress

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel Lipinski". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Lipinski

Member of Congress

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lucille Roybal-Allard". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Member of Congress

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Cárdenas". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress